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MINNESOTA BULLETIN NO. 300-6-21

SUBJECT: TSP - TECHNICAL SERVICE PROVIDER (TSP) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (TA)
NOT TO EXCEED RATES

Purpose. To distribute guidance on use of "Not to Exceed" rates.

Expiration Date. September 30, 2006

Use the newest on-line TSP "Not-to-Exceed" (NTE) rates to determine TSP TA rates for new line items in any Fiscal Year (FY) EQIP contract. Use the newest rates to estimate total value of conservation practice design, installation and checkout services to be provided (Attachment C) in proposed new contribution agreements.

Use rates in place at the time EQIP contracts were finalized when increasing units of current line items. Use rates in place at the time contribution agreements were finalized when amending those agreements.

DETERMINING NEW NTE RATES

The NTE rates are accessed from the TechReg site by clicking on the NTE calculator link or at:

<http://techreg.sc.egov.usda.gov/NTE/TSPNTE2/index.asp>

1. Select Minnesota
2. Select your county (automatically puts you in the appropriate Time Team Area)
3. Select the general practice you are interested (e.g. 313 waste storage structure).
 - From the first list shown (for your region) or from
 - The next list which says "also available in your area"
4. Select the most applicable local practice you are interested in (e.g. 313 has multiple choices such as "custom designed waste storage tank".) In some cases you may want to check the "also available in this area" list if you can't find a specific local practice that best matches your need.
5. Enter the planned or applied units for the practice. Determine one rate per producer for non-structural practices (e.g., the rate for 250 acres of third year pest management for an existing FY 2004 EQIP contract is based on 250 acres regardless of the number of fields that make up that 250 acres).
6. The Step 6.2 screen shows per unit costs for Design (911), Installation (912) and Checkout (913) and for 911, 912 and 913 combined; total costs for 911, 912 and 913; and total project costs. **"Other" and "travel" are included within costs.** The "Submit for Toolkit Screen can also be used. This screen only shows units, per unit costs for 911, 912 and 913 and total cost of the project.

New or revised practices now on the NTE site are:

- 313 Waste Storage Facility- New system options added
- 314 Brush Management
- 316 Animal Mortality-Revised plus new option

317 Composting facility-Two new options
338 Prescribed burning-Revised
365 and 366 Anaerobic digester
367-Waste Facility Cover
402-Dam
516 Pipeline-Revised and new
528-Prescribed Grazing-Revised
580-Shoreline Protection-Revised
634-Manure Transfer
635-Wastewater Treatment Strip (used for interim standard 784 levels 2-5)-2 revisions

Supplemental NTE Rate guidance

1. Do not use NTE rates for Nutrient Management (590) and Pest Management (595) in FY 05 and newer EQIP contracts
2. Use the “cropland” land use for Pest Management or Nutrient Management without manure.
3. Use the “CNMP” land use and **Waste Utilization Practice (633) for the 1st year of nutrient management with manure.**
4. Use the “CNMP” land use and **nutrient management (590)** for second and third year Nutrient Management with manure.
5. For interim practice 784 use the appropriate system(s) selected from TechReg for practice 313. However calculate and separately show the following practices not included in practice 313 systems:
Animal Mortality Facilities (316), Closure of Waste Impoundments (350); Composting Facilities (317); Waste Facility Covers (367) and Wastewater Treatment Strip(635).
6. Field Borders (386)- Use either Filter strip (393) or Critical Area Planting (342) to derive rates. Remember however, that field border units are in feet and 393 and 342 units are in acres.

Submit a written request with documentation to the State Conservationist requesting approval of a revised rate if special circumstances exist that justify a higher technical assistance rate than indicated by the NTE calculator. The request must be made prior to obligating TA funds.

Contact your area engineer or area resource conservationist for rates on general or specific practices not listed in the calculator. They will forward your request with their recommendations to John Brach or Jeff St. Ores in the state office for approval.

/s/

WILLIAM HUNT
State Conservationist

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